

REMARKS

**1. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-17 and 20-25, and 64-66 are pending.

Claims 1- 17, 21, 25, and 64-66 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claim withdrawals were made without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's arguments, and without waiving the right to prosecute the withdrawn (or similar) claims in this or in another application, but rather for the purpose of furthering Applicants' business goals and expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG).<sup>1</sup>

**2. RESTRICTION**

The Examiner restricted the previously elected Group I into the following three Groups:<sup>2</sup>

**Group I:** “Claims 1-17, drawn to a method of identifying a test agent as reducing the level of differentiation of T cells into Th1 cells,”

**Group II:** “Claims 20 and 22-24, drawn to a method of increasing Th2 cytokine levels comprising providing an inhibitor of ITCH,” and

**Group III:** “Claims 21, 25, and 64-66, drawn to a method of increasing Th2 cytokine levels comprising providing a kinase inhibitor.”

**3. ELECTION**

To expedite prosecution, Applicants elect **Group II** “Claims 20 and 22-24, drawn to a method of increasing Th2 cytokine levels comprising providing an inhibitor of ITCH,” **without** traverse.

**4. RIGHT TO REJOINDER OF NON-ELECTED CLAIMS**

Applicants reserve the right to rejoinder and consideration, upon allowance of an elected claim, of non-elected claims that depend from or requires all the limitations of the allowable

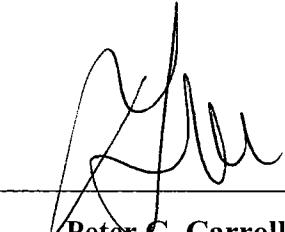
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<sup>1</sup> 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000).

<sup>2</sup> Office Action, page 2, item 3.

claims, as provided by 37 CFR § 1.141 and MPEP 809, including any claims that may have been previously withdrawn from consideration.

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